

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending, with claims 8, 13 and 14 temporarily withdrawn from consideration.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) accompanied the amendment submitted on March 14, 2006. If the IDS is not in the PTO file when the examiner considers this amendment, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned so that a duplicate copy may be provided.

Claims 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 24 covers an overall misalignment inhibiting structure that includes both the configuration of the base members (specifically claim 24) as shown, for example, in Fig. 2, as well as a structure shown, for example, in the upper portion of Fig. 3 (e.g., claim 21).

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuda (EP 1 010 613). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a misalignment inhibiting structure disposed *between* the first base member and the second base member to inhibit misalignment of the drive mechanism as a result of an external force. Fukuda discloses a motor-driven derailleur (14) that includes a motor unit housing (56) that includes a first housing section (56A) and a second housing section (56B). A motor (262), gear reduction unit (800) and other associated components are housed between first housing section (56A) and second housing section (56B). There is no structure between first housing section (56A) and second housing section (56B) in the exploded view shown in Fig. 6, which is the most detailed view of the components, that has a misalignment capability. Accordingly, Fukuda neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in claims 1-3.

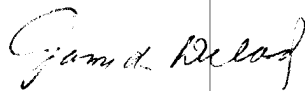
Claims 4-7, 9-12 and 15-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of Kerdjoudj, et al (US D451,072). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is submitted that Kerdjoudj, et al is from nonanalogous art. Kerdjoudj, et al is directed to a compact motor box, and there is no indication that the motor is intended to be used in the bicycle field. The structure and function of the motor also is not directed to bicycle derailleurs. Since Kerdjoudj, et al is a design patent, there is no indication of the problem, if any, the motor box of Kerdjoudj, et al is attempting to address. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the bicycle field would have no reason to consider Kerdjoudj, et al for anything but aesthetics, and there is no reason to believe that the angled surface by itself has any aesthetic value.

Additionally, there is no evidence why Kerdjoudj, et al include the angled surface between the components motor box components. There is no indication that the motor box ever experiences undesirable external forces that could pose a problem, or that the angled surfaces provide any benefit at all. Thus, Kerdjoudj, et al cannot be said to suggest the use of an angled surface between components to inhibit misalignment in a bicycle derailleur.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102, §103 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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